

MARVEL

ISSUE

26

NATURAL RESOURCES

WOOD • ASRAR • VLASCO • BELLAIRE

ULTIMATE COMICS™

X-MEN



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BONUS
DIGITAL
EDITION

see inside for details

**LIVING IN A WORLD
WHERE MUTANTS ARE
HATED AND FEARED MORE
THAN EVER, ONE GROUP
OF YOUNG HEROES HAS
BANDED TOGETHER TO
FIGHT BACK.**

ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN



PREVIOUSLY:

Kitty Pryde needs friends. And fast...

Washington has pushed the "Protect American Ideas & Property Act" through Congress, designed for the government to profit from mutant innovations such as the sentient seed. The divided camps in Utopia are losing the little faith they had left in humanity. And tensions are peaking on the ground.

Back in Utopia, Jean Grey has camouflaged herself as an Utopia refugee, waiting to make her move against Kitty. Meanwhile, Jimmy Hudson is still figuring out whether he's Utopia's soldier or Kitty's double agent. And 80 miles from camp, U.S. Army General Ross waits for orders to silence the embarrassment that Utopia has become to the United States...

If both humans and mutants are waiting for Utopia to fall, when will Jean enlighten Kitty and her camp about the promise of Tian? Whose side will Jimmy be standing by? And will General Ross and his soldiers stop Kitty's tour de force prematurely?

**BRIAN
WOOD**
WRITER

**MAHMUD
ASRAR**
PENCILER

**JUAN
VLASCO**
INKER

**JORDIE
BELLAIRE**
COLORIST

**VC'S JOE
SABINO**
LETTERING & PRODUCTION

**DAVE
JOHNSON**
COVER

**JON MOISAN &
EMILY SHAW**
ASSISTANT EDITORS

**MARK
PANICCIA**
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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UTOPIA.



JEAN GREY

Derek, are you reading this?



KLIK



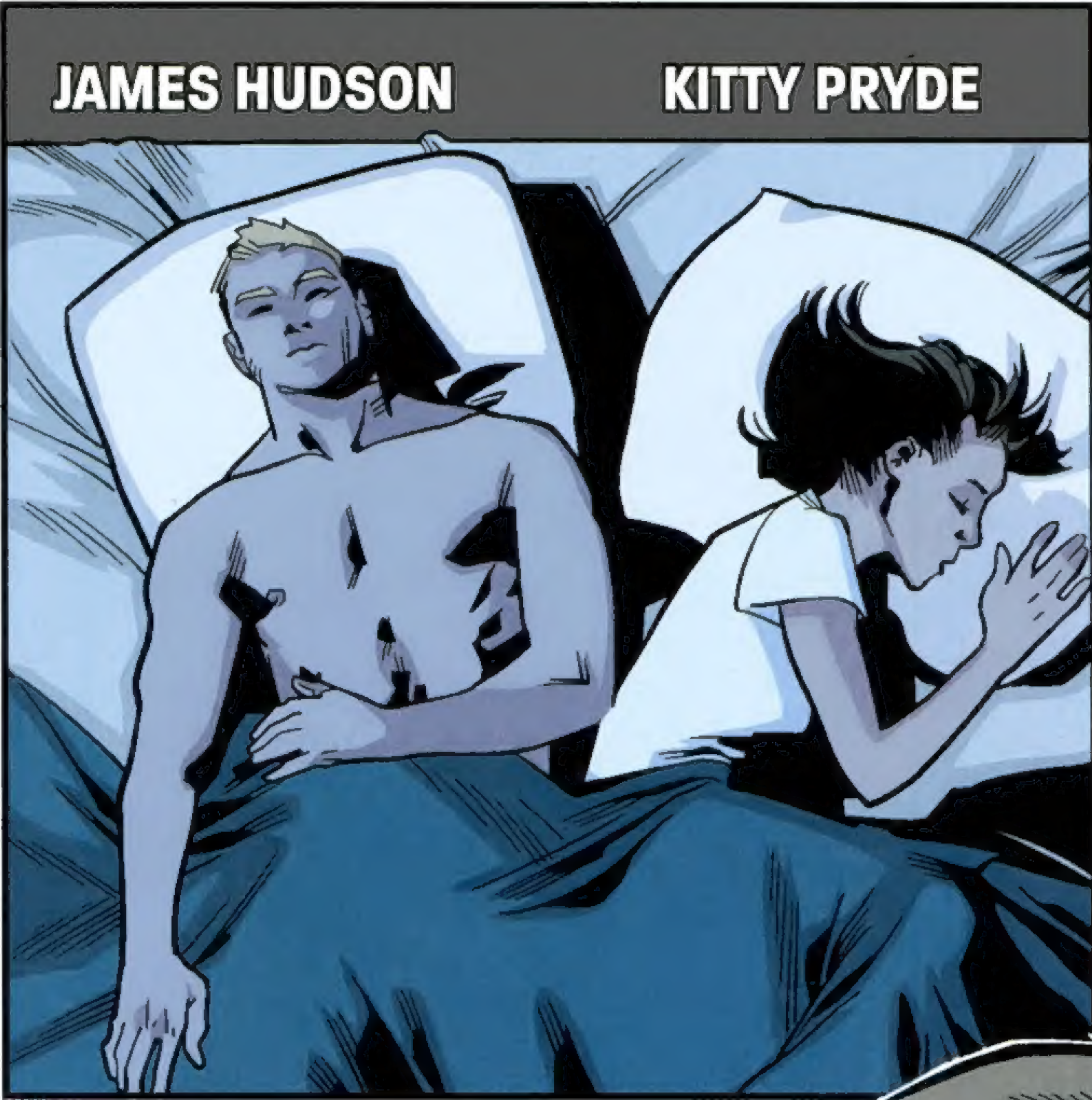
BIP

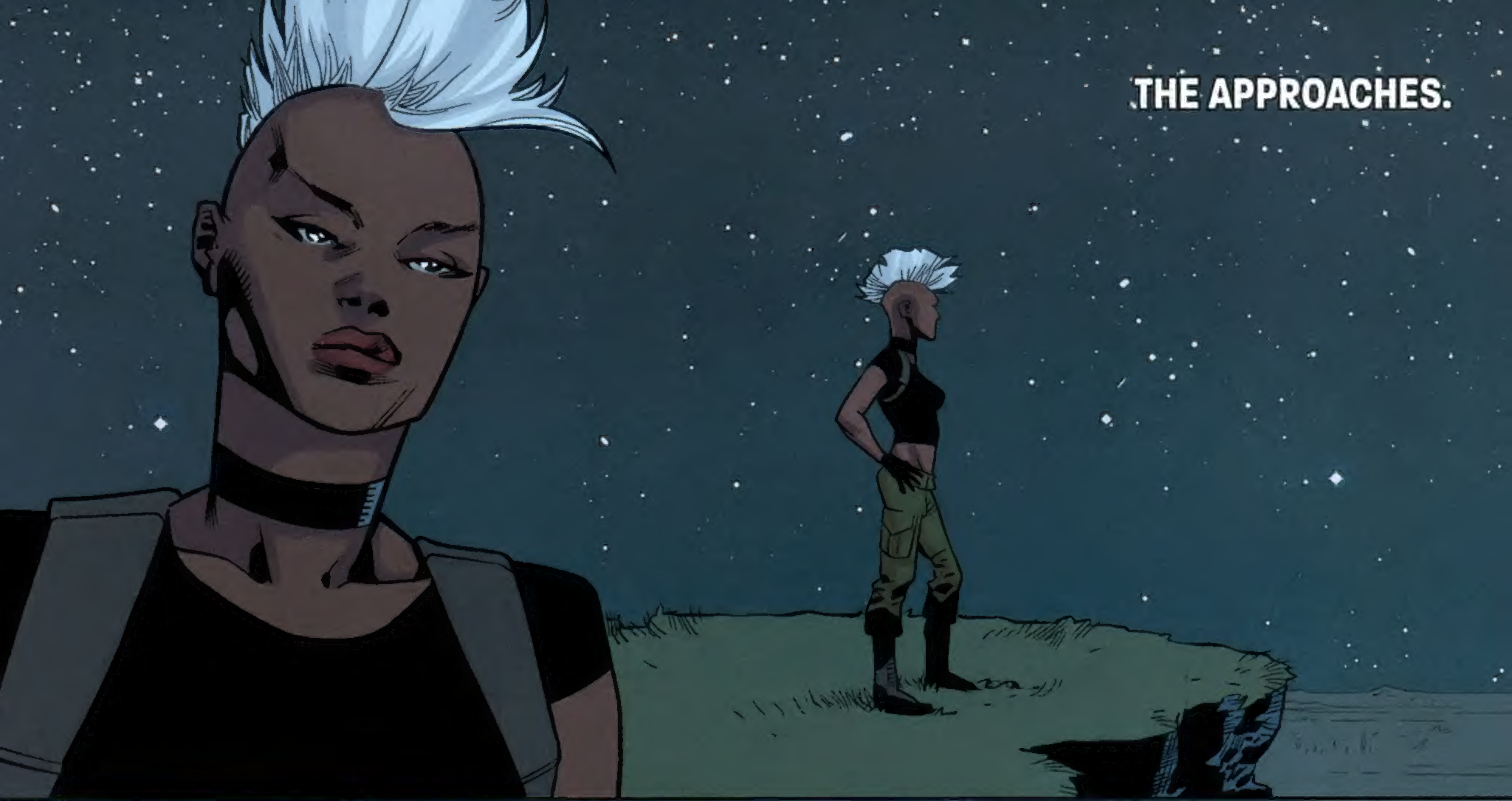
We have the homing signal. Marking it as extraction point alpha.



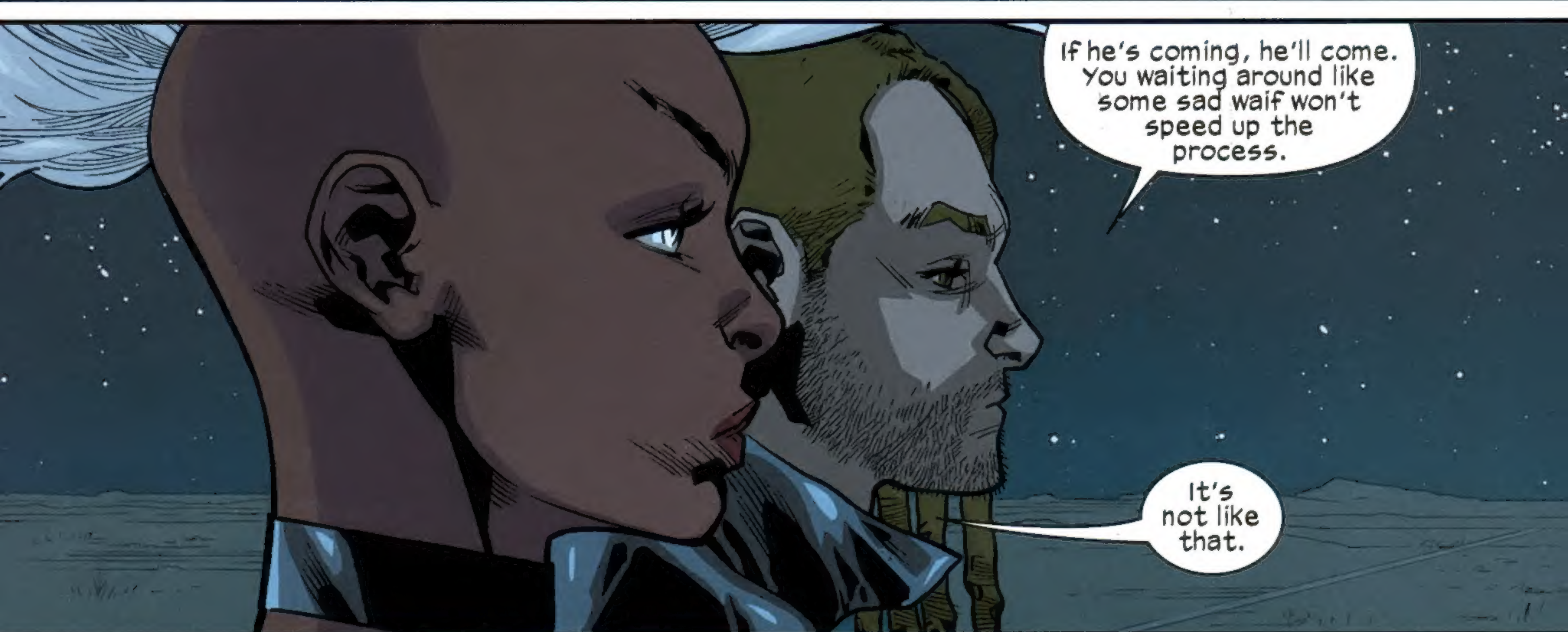
ROGUE







THE APPROACHES.



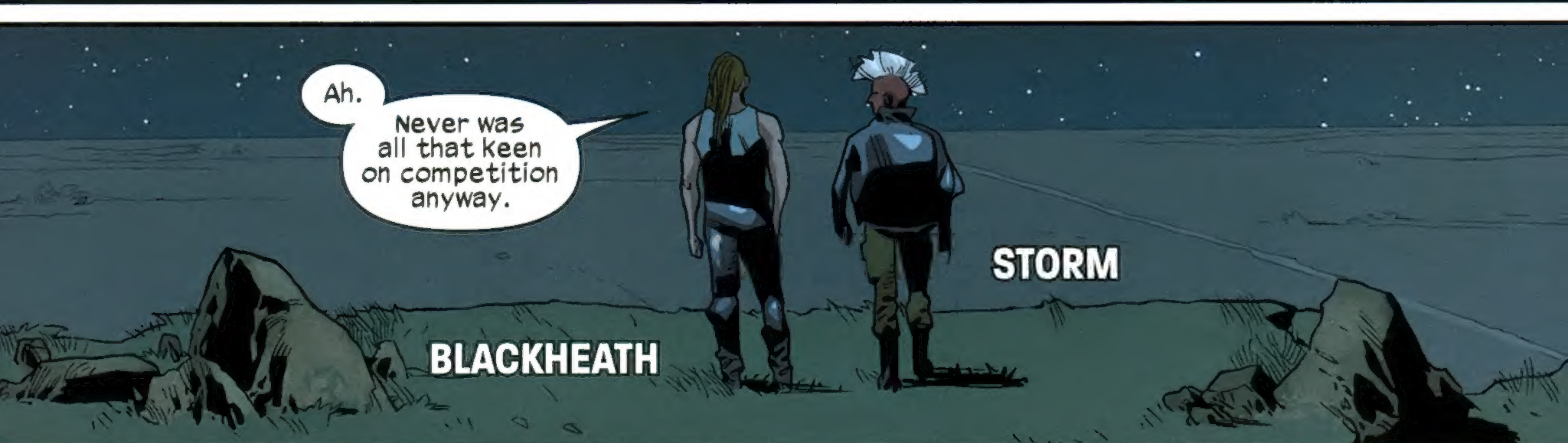
If he's coming, he'll come.
You waiting around like
some sad waif won't
speed up the
process.

It's
not like
that.



It's a...
Piotr's a friend,
from the camps.
I keep hoping he
makes his way
here.

But Piotr
wouldn't be
coming for me.
Not like that.



Ah.

Never was
all that keen
on competition
anyway.

STORM

BLACKHEATH

Careful.
That's a long
drop.

This rock
is extrusive
igneous basalt.
High amounts
of iron...

ELSEWHERE.

MACH TWO

...real sticky
stuff for someone
like me. I'm not
going anywhere.

WARPATH

I haven't eaten in
two days, Nomi.
Not real food,
anyway.

How long
can we stay
out here?

Until
we win.

Have you
seen the village
recently? Utopia's
got *greenhouses*
full of food. They're
winning.

Listen, I
agree with you,
humans *should* be
punished for what
they've done to us.
I'm *pro-retaliation*.
I'll go all freedom
fighter on them
in a *second*...

...I just hope
we get the chance,
before we die out
here from eating tree
bark and those weird
green berries.

We'll
get the
chance...

"...The humans will
never be able to
leave us in peace."



NATURAL RESOURCES PART THREE

WOOD ASRAR

VLASCO BELLAIRE

We have comms up. Countermeasures coming online now. Drones nearly in position to provide us full visual surveillance over the whole reservation.

But...these *are* mutants, General Ross...



If they want a way around our systems, they'll probably find one.



Kitty Pryde's been shown again and again that the power of the media moves her cause forward. I'm going to deny her that.

We're restricting the airspace, scrambling satellite coverage and cell communications...

...road-blocking this whole area fifty miles out...

...we can't afford any witnesses.

Or martyrs.

I *am* in charge, General.

And I have orders from the President: this isn't going to be a bloodbath.

Point taken, but tell that to the kid up there with the razor claws. I aim to be prepared.

Sir!



They're coming.

It's just one jeep, Jimmy.

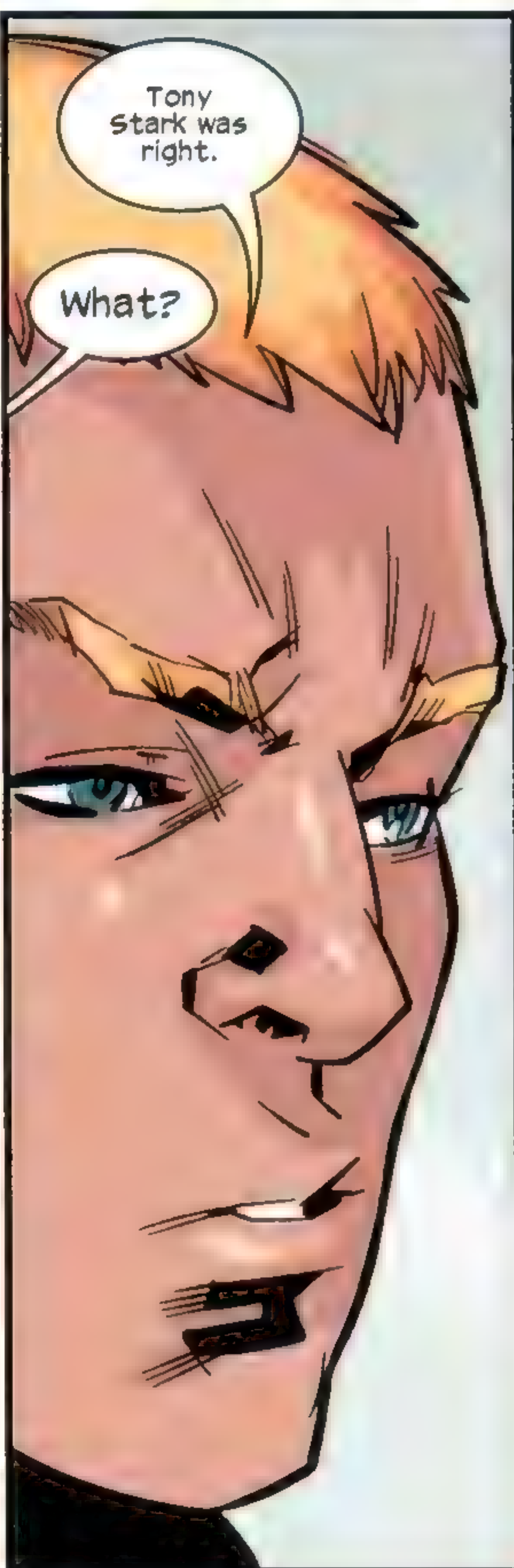
I don't understand...



Why are they *here*? This isn't part of the deal.

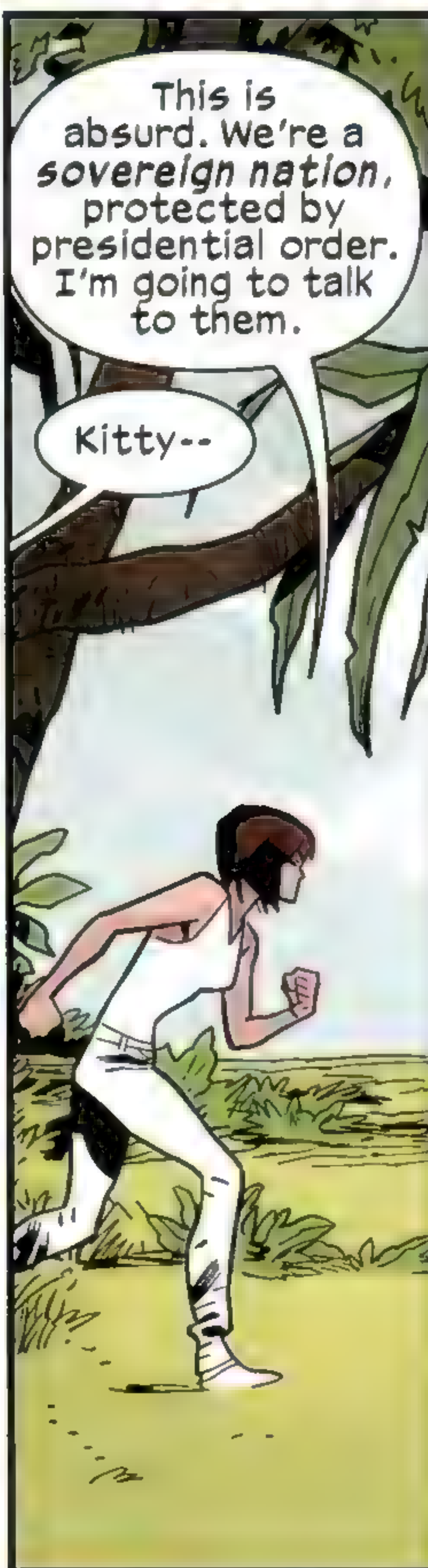
What deal?

Before you got here, we made a deal with Captain America. They're supposed to leave us alone, not park a small army at our front door.



Tony Stark was right.

What?

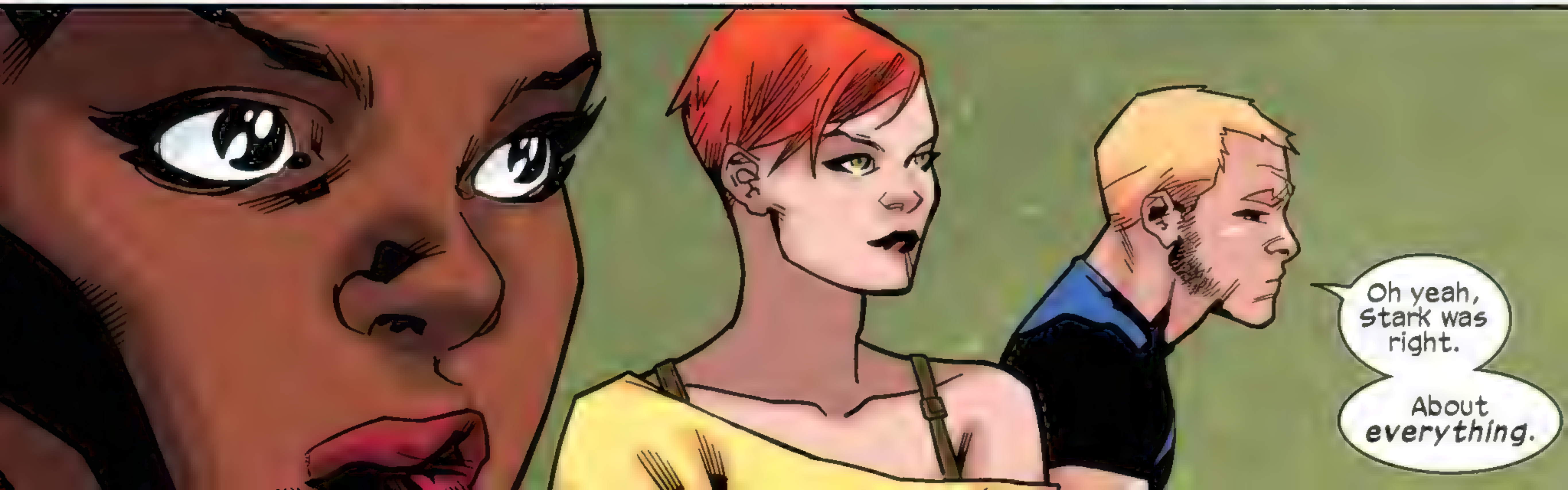


This is absurd. We're a *sovereign nation*, protected by presidential order. I'm going to talk to them.

Kitty--



We have rights!



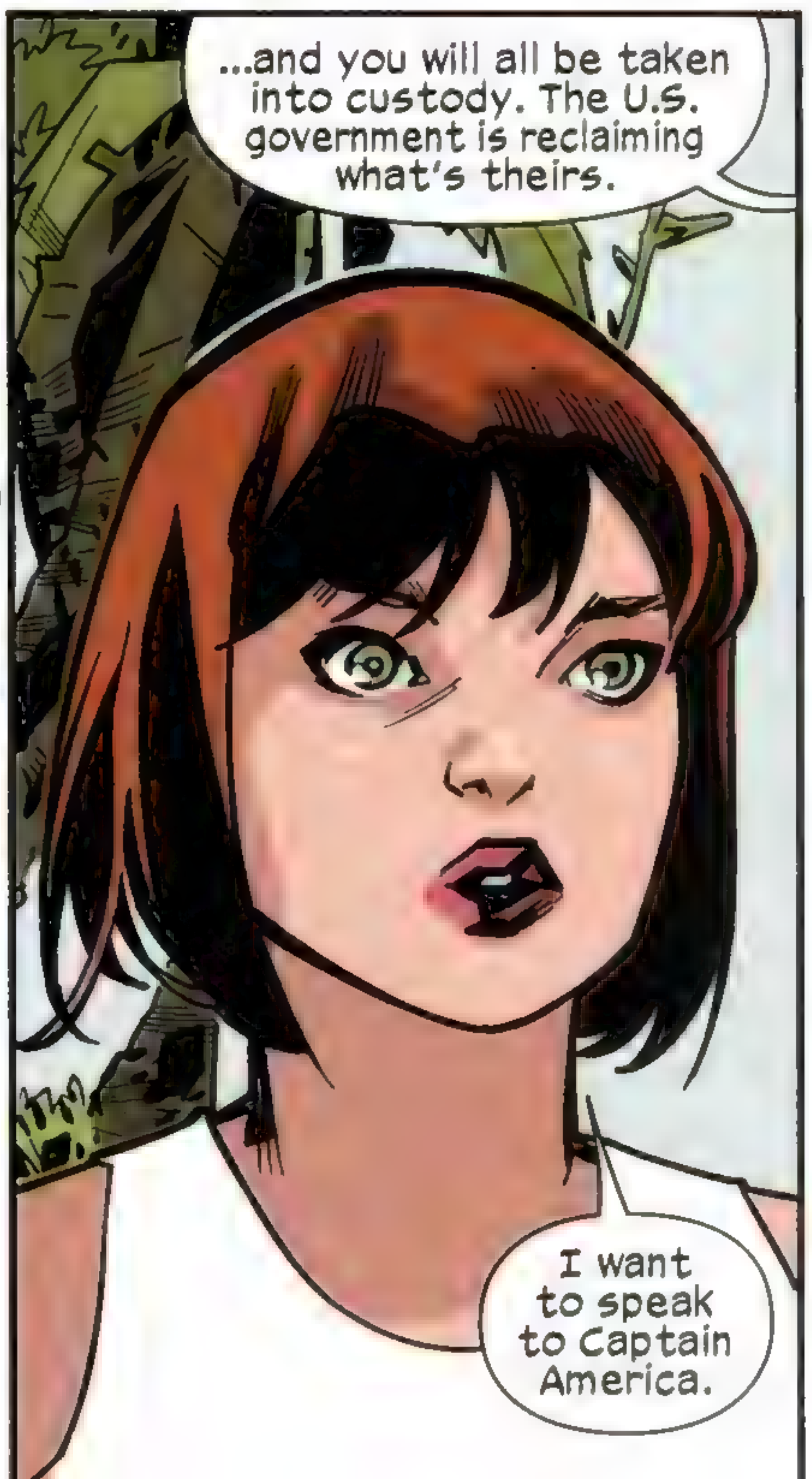
Oh yeah, Stark was right.

About everything.



...as have its inhabitants. This includes all materials owned by, created by, and otherwise in the possession of any mutant living within these borders.

Your "Utopia"'s been nationalized, Ms. Pryde...





That will not be possible. Now, as a courtesy, I'm giving you twelve hours to talk to your people and coordinate an orderly exit from this land.

Here...



...this is a direct line to me. Any questions, anything at all, I'll be at the other end of this for those next twelve hours.



...I don't...



Sir, she's gonna touch him...

Hold your fire.

My cousin touched a mutie once and it messed him up real good. He was never quite the same after that...

Hold your fire.



To hell with that, sir.

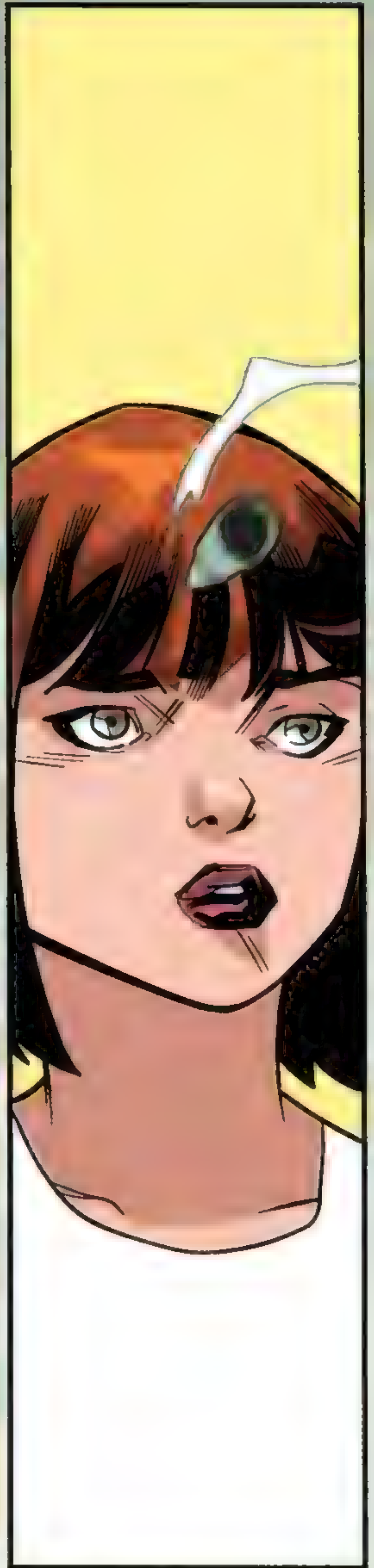
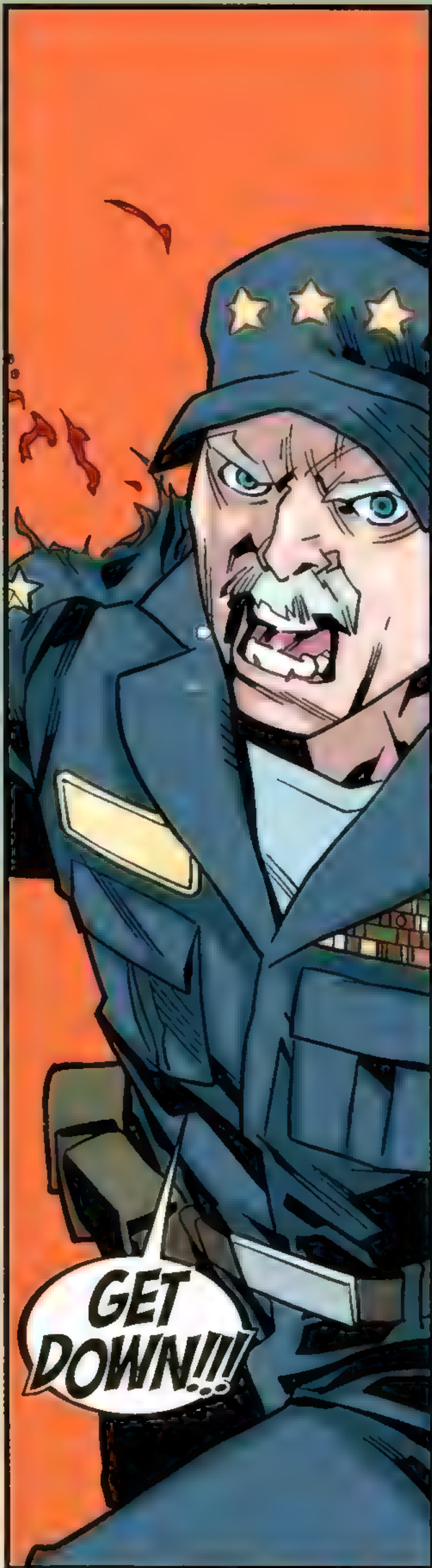
I ain't never gonna trust a mutant.

General Ross, please get clear.



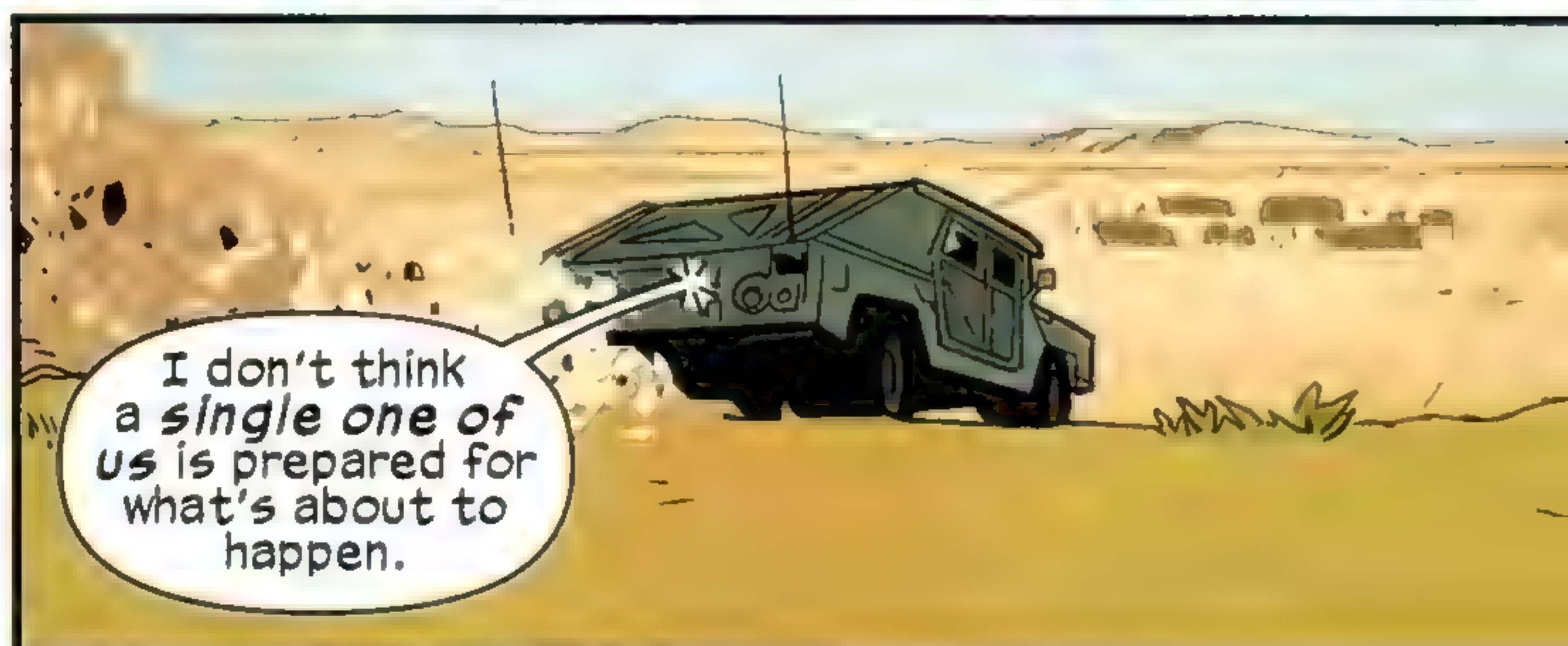
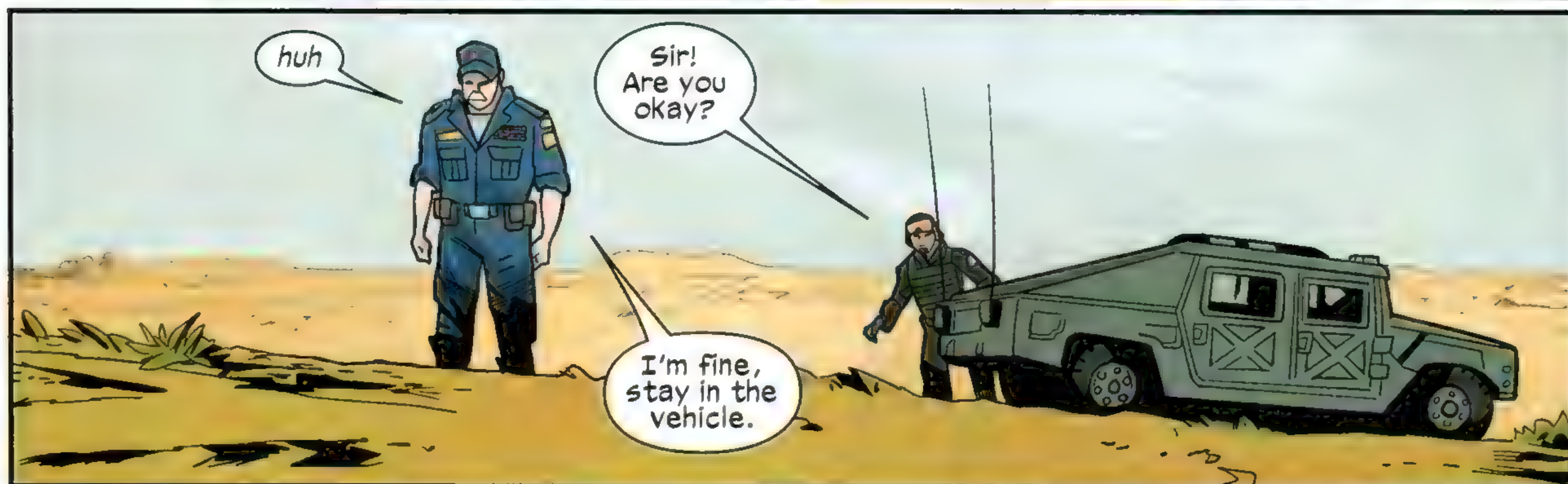
HOLD YOUR--





KRAK KKKK





THE VILLAGE.



Okay,
enough of
the self-pity,
Kitty...

...it happened,
it is what it is.
You survived
Stryker, you can
survive this.

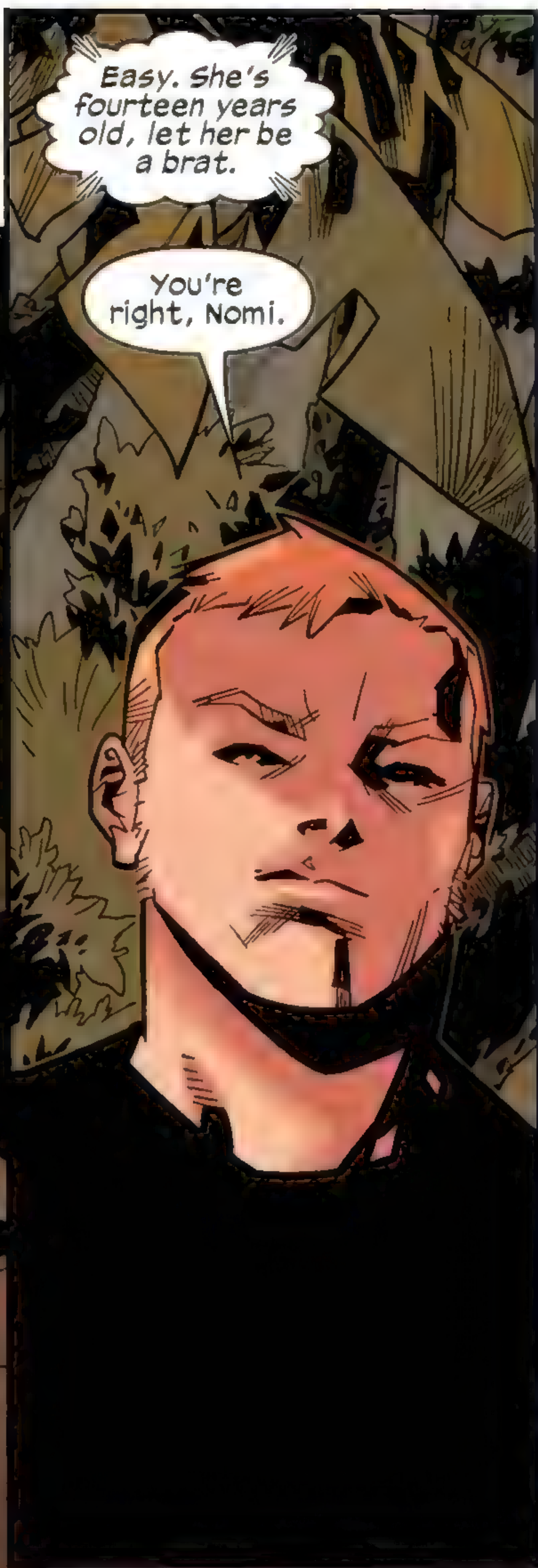


They need
you.

They
need you to
be strong.



Utopia will
not die, not
here and not
now.



HOURS LATER.

The others, the outcasts, they returned at dusk. You could have heard a pin drop.

I wasn't here, obviously, in those early days of Utopia, and I don't have a sense of the rift, why it happened and what it actually meant.

But how bad could it have been? Mach Two is so young, and she obviously is fixated on Kitty.



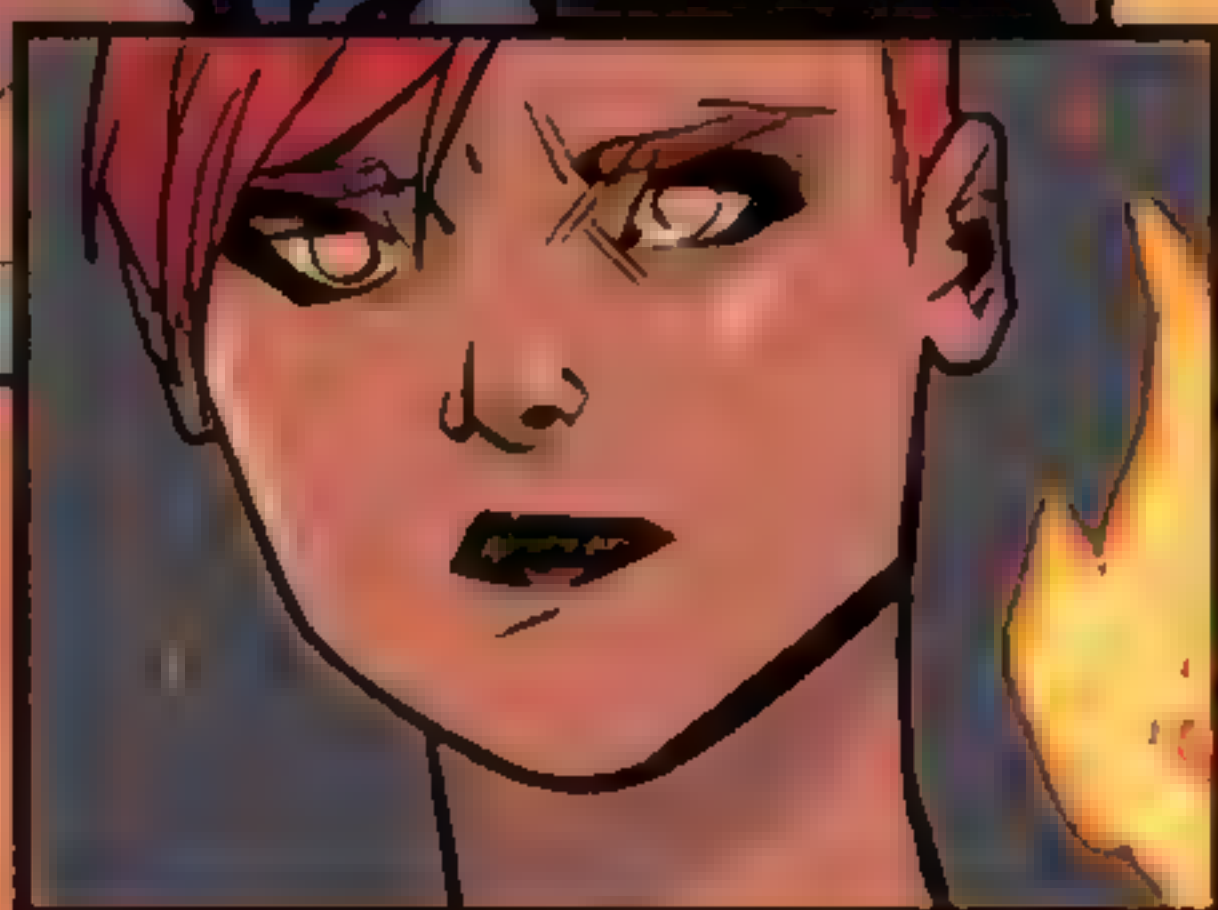
Is something else at work here?



Or someone?



Is this the salvation of Utopia or its death knell?



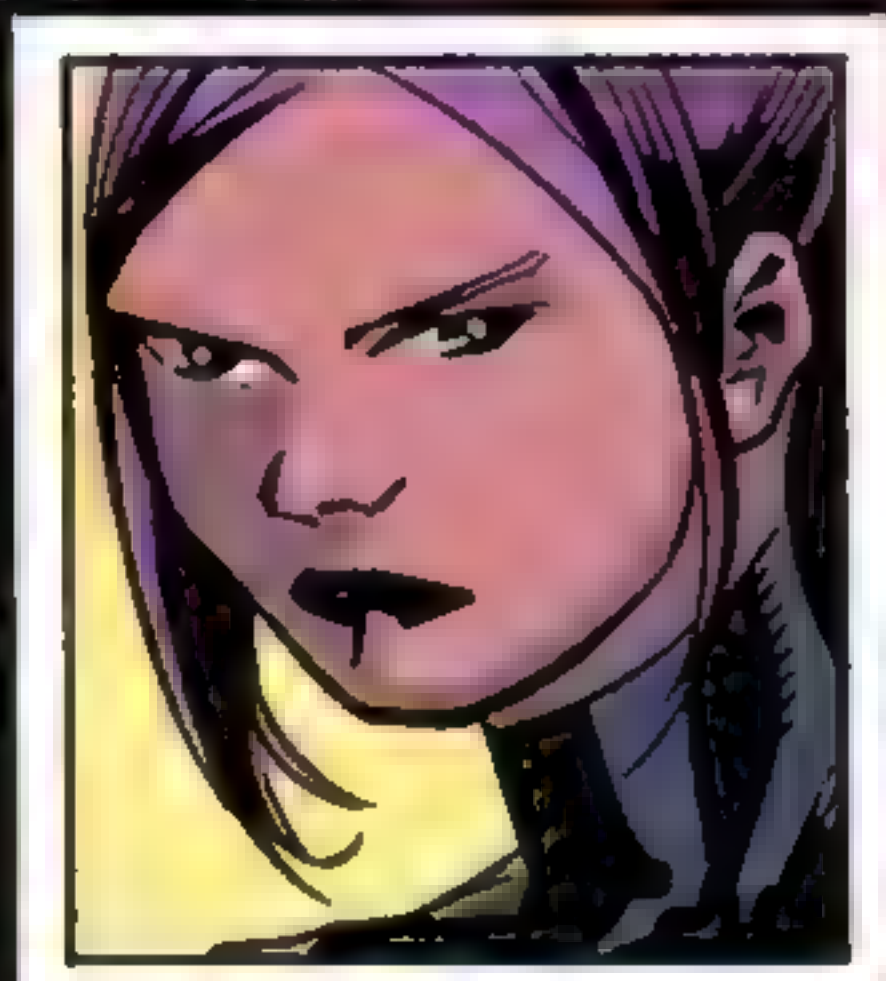
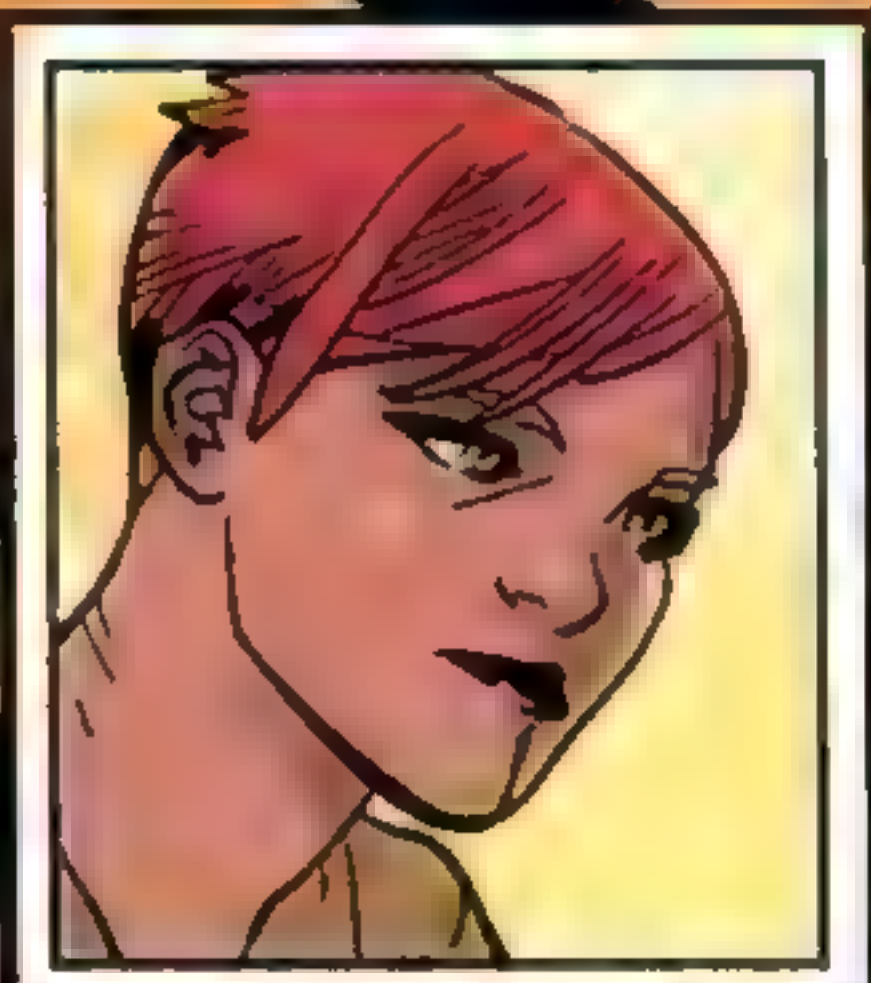
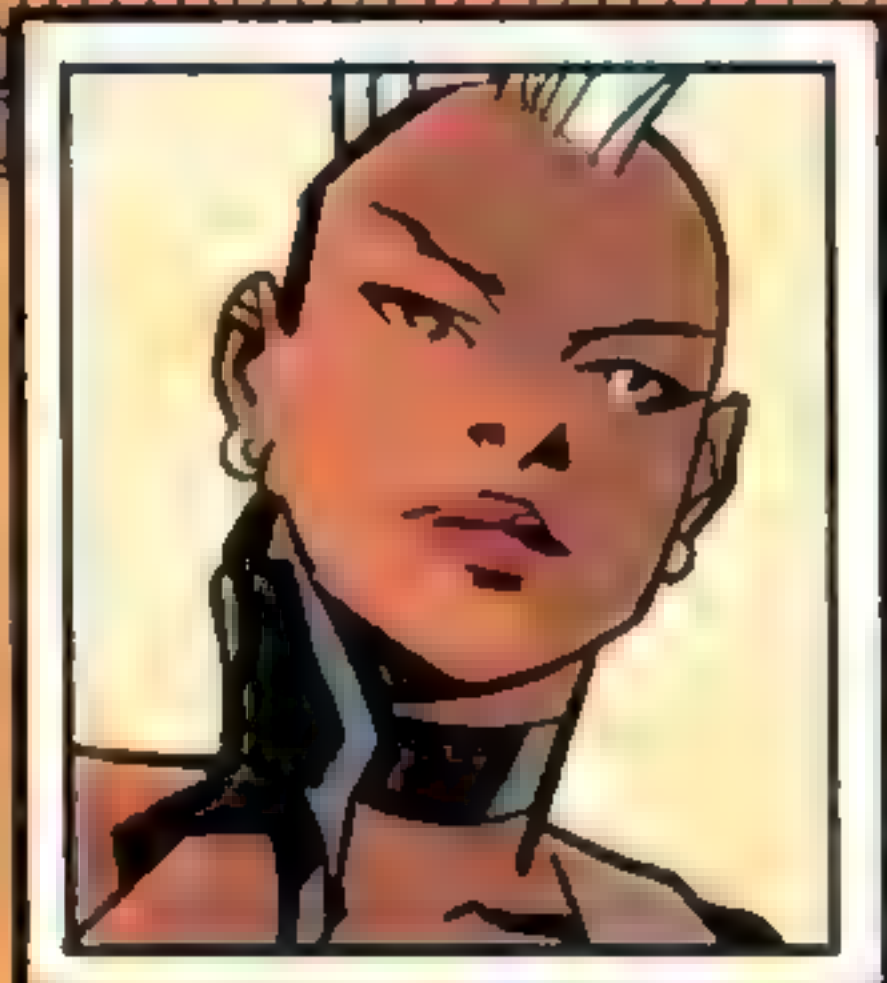
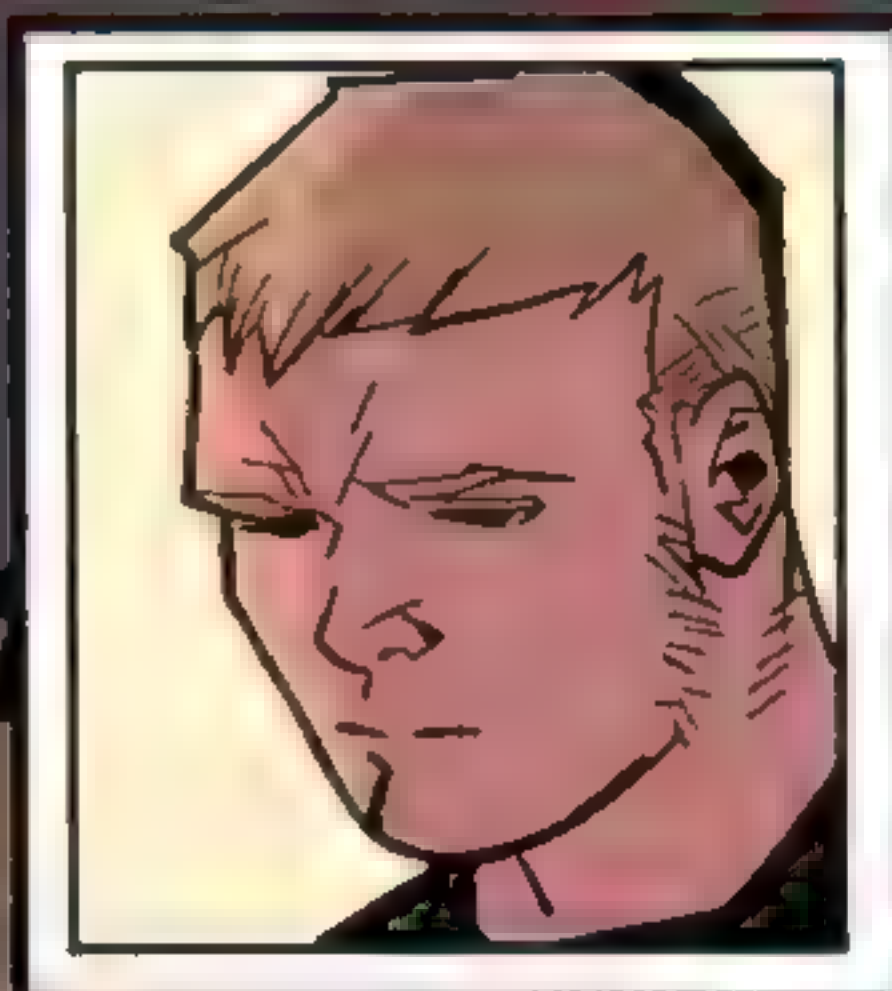
I don't think negotiation is a viable option, but Utopia is peaceful in intent and I *will* make the effort.

Utopia is well defended. Magma and Storm and Blackheath and Zero and so many others turned this dead patch of desert into a *living fortress*.

But we will *not* attack. We are perfectly positioned to defend, to ride out this siege and maintain our *nonviolent* stance.

General Ross has no orders to kill us; we are to be *taken alive*. As long as that's the situation, we cannot lose.

They're coming at us again. To all of us, this is nothing new.



What *will* be new is how it ends: no mutants need to die, and no humans should either. We need to show them that we are simultaneously not a threat...

...but that we are to be *respected*, to be afforded basic rights...of speech, of property and privacy, of religion and philosophy, and of *self-determination*.

To be left in peace. This is what we were promised.

And this reason, and only this reason, is why we will meet aggression with *resistance*.



Right...

...we need to lock down a few basic things, now, well before the deadline.

We need to store water and food. We need to move essentials deeper into the forest, *away* from the village buildings...

Perimeter watch: I'll need volunteers to maintain constant eyes on the enemy...

What is he doing? Didn't he hear a word I said?

Everyone heard you, Kitty...

But he's being sensible, he's not contradicting anything you said.

But--

Kitty.

Your people are clearly behind you.

They just want to help carry your burden a bit. *Let them.*

Are you behind me?

It wasn't until that moment...

...that I realized the future of Tian was *linked* to the future of Utopia. Or rather, its people.

Kitty needs this victory to cement her leadership and the independence of mutants in America.

I am, Kitty. *One hundred percent.*



Then I can bring them into the fold, as one, united under Tian.



Farbird.

MISTRESS?

Change of plans.

I'm going to see this through with the Utopia mutants. Please inform the others.

YES, MISTRESS.

I need you to stay on over watch. Can you do that for me?



OF COURSE.

One last thing, Farbird.

On my order, I want you to hit the military convoy with your EMP weapon.

MISTRESS?



I'm going to level the playing field.



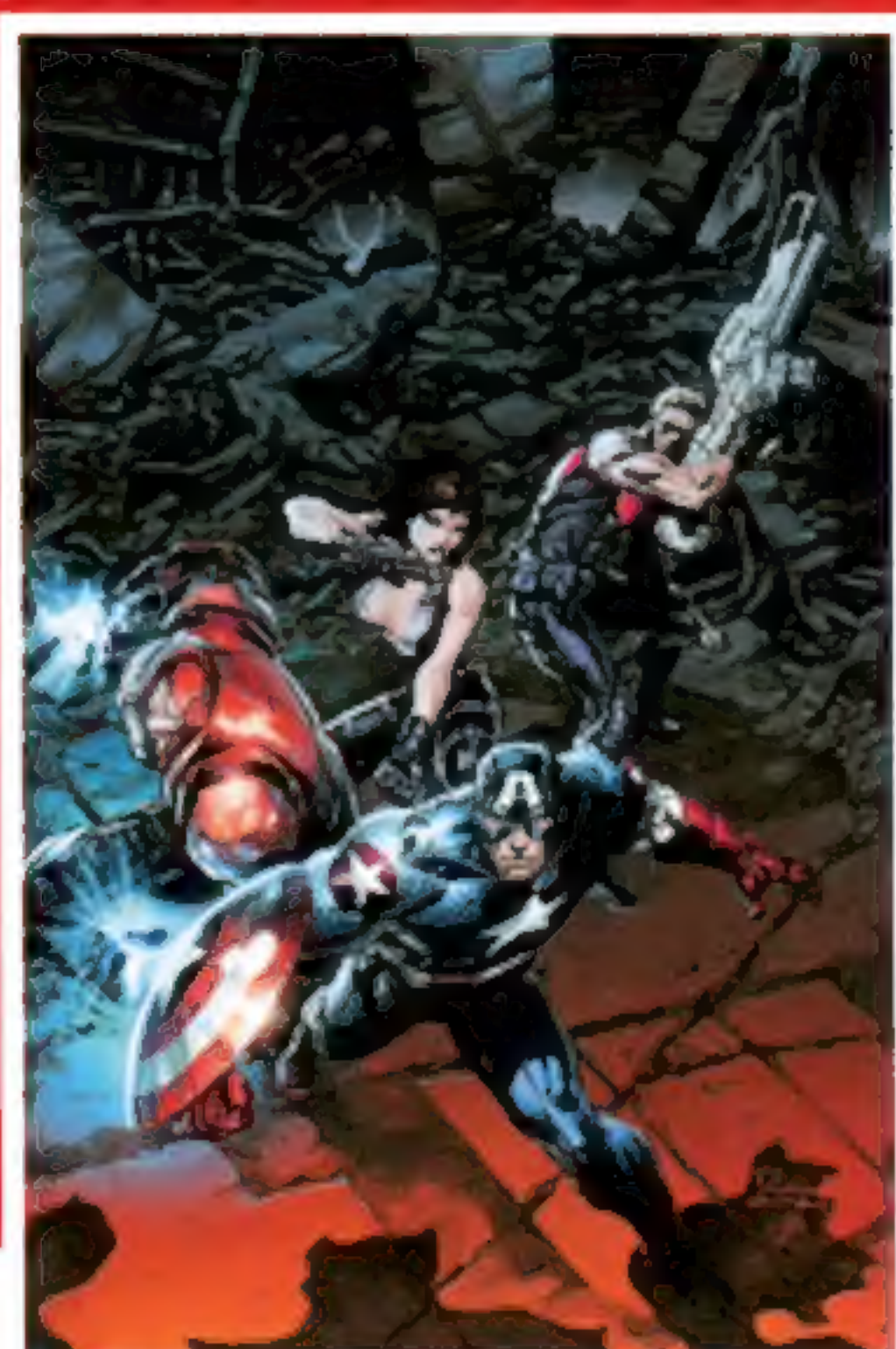
Jean Grey
out.

TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT:



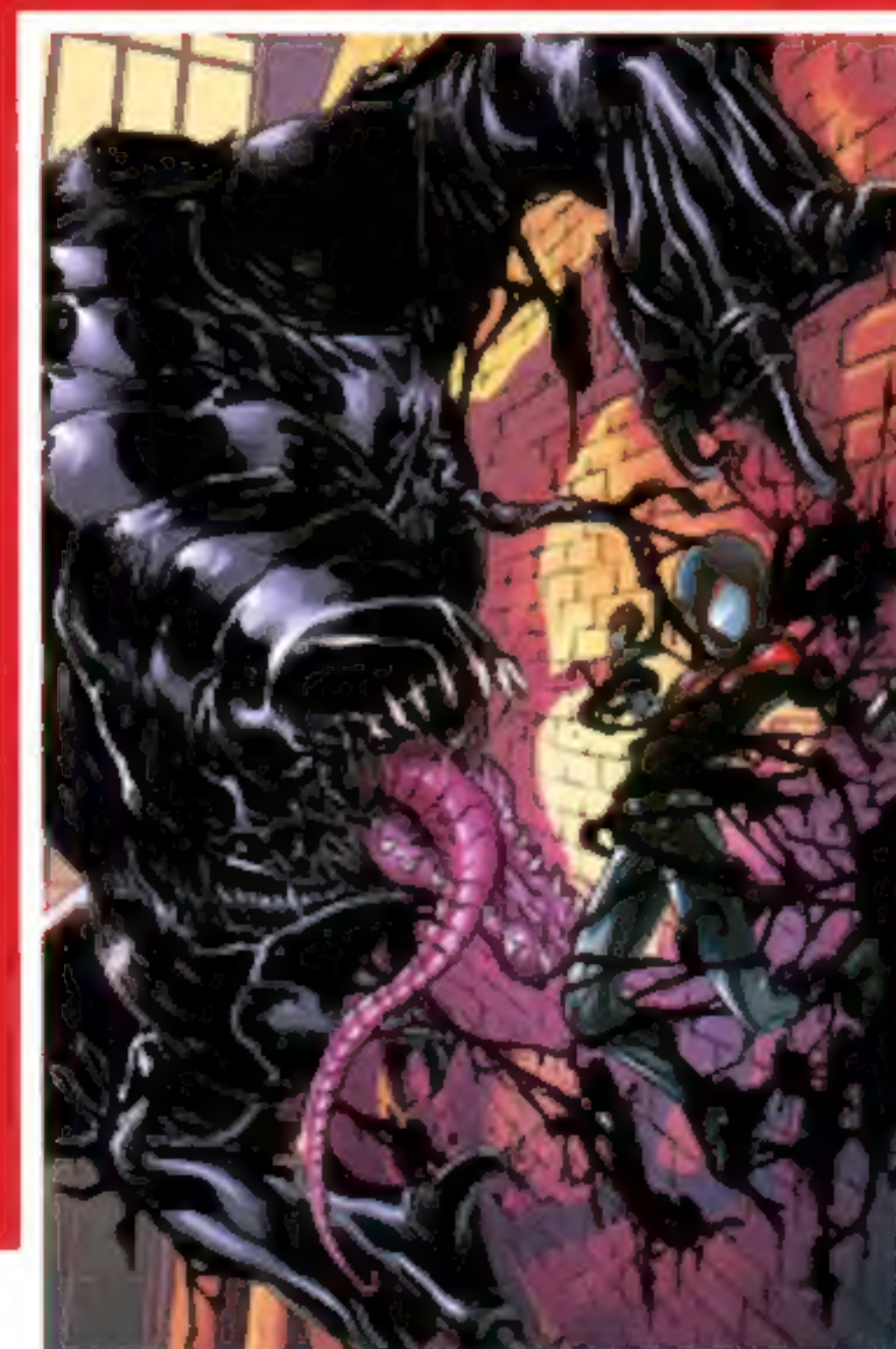
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